

REMARKS

Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with the present Amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, and 15 are pending. Claims 1-6, 9, 12, and 13 have been canceled. Claims 14 and 15 have been added.

In reviewing the present application as published, it appears to Applicants that the Substitute Specification filed July 6, 2006 had not been entered. Applicants respectfully request entry of the Substitute Specification.

Applicants submit herewith a replacement Declaration with the corrected priority information.

Applicants have canceled Claims 9 and 13, thereby obviating the Examiner's objections to the drawings, as well as the rejection of Claims 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The Examiner rejected Claims 7, 8, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,724,882 to Dehar ("Dehar '882") and rejected Claim 10 as being obvious over Dehar '882.

Claim 7, as presently amended, calls for a connector including a connecting section, a clamp extending from the connecting section and including an engaging nose, and an arresting depression provided in an end of the clamp distal from the connecting section, the arresting depression located radially adjacent the engaging nose.

Referring to Fig. 2 of the present application, it may be seen that arresting depression 24 is provided in an end of clamp 6 that is distal from connecting section 1, and is located radially adjacent engaging nose 15. In this manner, when bushing 21 is received within arresting depression 24, bushing 21 is in turn itself located radially adjacent engaging nose to provide a positive clamping force directly adjacent engaging nose 15.

By contrast, in the arrangement of Dehar '882, fingers 19 of clamp member 17 each lack an arresting depression provided therein which is distal from clamp member 17 and radially

adjacent tooth 29. Rather, clamp member 17 has a groove disposed adjacent tabs 82 which is spaced some distance from fingers 19.

New dependent Claim 14 depends from amended independent Claim 7, and further calls for the feature whereby, in the locking position, the sliding bushing is closely received axially between a pair of boundary sides of the arresting depression. This feature is evident from Fig. 2 and is discussed in [0022] of the present specification as published.

By contrast, it may be seen from Figs. 2 and 3 of Dehar '882 that neither of the two radially inwardly disposed end portions of outer sleeve 18 is closely received between a pair of boundary sides of an arresting depression.

New dependent Claim 14 depends from amended independent Claim 7, and further calls for the feature of the clamp being unitary with the connecting section, as shown e.g., by the hatched lines in Fig. 2 of the present application.

By contrast, in the device of Dehar '882, tube 13 and clamp member are formed as separate elements.

Therefore, amended independent Claim 7, as well as new dependent Claims 14 and 15, are not anticipated by Dehar '882.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefore and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels LLP.

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Should the Examiner have any questions regarding any of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at 260-460-1741.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam F. Cox
Registration No. 46,644
Attorney for Applicants

AFC/mh

BAKER & DANIELS LLP
111 East Wayne Street, Suite 800
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Telephone: 260-424-8000
Facsimile: 260-460-1700